

## Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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ARA/LA/PLC-COL. WILLIAMS

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R 252058Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO CNO WASHDC

USCINCSO

COMUSNAVSO FORT AMADOR CZ

DIRDMA WASHDC

OCEANAV ALEX

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084803

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, MILI PN

SUBJECT: HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS VICINITY PANAMA

1. IN ORDER TO SATISFY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY NAUTICAL CHARTING REQUIREMENTS, THE US NAVY DESIRES TO CONDUCT COORDINATED HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA IN WATERS OFF COASTS (ATLANTIC & PACIFIC) OF PANAMA AND CANAL ZONE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE FEBRUARY, 1975. WHILE EFFORT TO BE CHIEFLY MARINE CHARTING, SOME OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA WILL BE GATHERED. THE RESULTING NAUTICAL CHART AND OCEANOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WOULD BENEFIT BOTH THE US AND PANAMA.

2. THE USNS HARKNESS (T--AGS 32), A COASTAL HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY SHIP OPERATED BY MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND UNDER THE TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF THE NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE (NAVOCEANO), WOULD CONDUCT THE SURVEYS. PARTICIPATION BY  
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PERSONNEL OF INSTITUTO GEOGRAFICO NACIONAL (IGN) OR "TOMMY

GUARDIA" IS WELCOME. THE HARKNESS IS CREWED BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OF MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND, AND WILL ALSO CARRY A MILITARY DETACHMENT TO CONDUCT ACTUAL SURVEY OPERATIONS. THE VESSEL (UNARMED, WHITE HULLED) CARRIES FOUR SOUNDING LAUNCHES AND A HELICOPTER.

3. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE LAND USE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC SURVEY AIDS AT NUMBER

OF SITES. A SMALL ADVANCE PARTY WILL EXAMINE AND SELECT THE LOCATIONS. ADDITIONALLY A PORTABLE VAN TYPE OF SURVEY SYSTEM MAY BE EMPLOYED. USE OF ELECTRONIC POSITIONING AIDS WILL REQUIRE A SEPARATE FREQUENCY CLEARANCE. GEODETIC REQUIREMENTS FOR POSITIONING OF THE NAVIGATION AIDS WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE IAGS.

4. THE HARKNESS WOULD CALL AT VARIOUS PANAMANIAN PORTS, AS WELL AS THE ZONE, FOR LOGISTICS, CREW REST, ETC. OPERATIONS OF THE HARKNESS MAY BE COORDINATED WITH SIMILAR SHIPS OF UNDER DIRECTION OF NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE, BUT NO PARTICULAR SHIPS HAVE BEEN NAMED AT THIS TIME.

5. RESULTS OF SURVEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GOP AS RAW DATA, FINISHED CHARTS OR BOTH. PERSONNEL OF NAVOCEANO ARE AVAILABLE TO BRIEF GOP PERSONNEL CONCERNING ALL ASPECTS OF THE SURVEY.

6. FYI NAVOCEANO AND GOP ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING A HARBOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HARSAP) AGREEMENT. THIS PROGRAM ASSISTS COUNTRY PERSONNEL IN SURVEYING THEIR OWN PORTS AND HARBORS. END FYI

7. REQUEST POST APPROACH GOP WITH THIS PROPOSAL, STRESSING NON-MILITARY NATURE OF SHIP AND COOPERATIVE ASPECTS OF SURVEY. EARLY INDICATION OF GOP INTEREST IMPORTANT BOTH TO BEGIN ARRANGEMENTS PARA 3, AND TO ALLOW LEAD TIME NECESSARY TO ASSURE VESSEL'S COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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